

## Public Safety

### ***CRIME CASES CLEARED***

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#### **THE OUTCOME**

Maximize the number of crimes solved.

#### **THE MEASUREMENT**

A case is considered cleared when at least one person is arrested, charged, and turned over to court for prosecution, or the case is cleared exceptionally. A case can be cleared exceptionally if there is cause to arrest the suspect but there is some reason outside law enforcement that precludes arresting the suspect. The number of FBI index cases cleared as a percentage of total FBI index crime cases is a fairly standard measure used throughout the law enforcement community. Clearance rates have been measured and reported by the police department for at least 25 years.

In addition to the percentage for all FBI index crime cases overall, we also measure the percentage separately for violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), and for property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft) to help further identify strengths and weaknesses.

#### **WHAT THE DATA MEANS**

The clearance rate is one indicator of the achievement of law enforcement personnel in solving crimes. Although generally thought of as a reflection of the investigations function, it also reflects the performance of the patrol and police records functions.

Some of the factors that influence clearance rates include: policies and procedures used by various agencies; workload and/or the volume of cases reported; personnel staffing for preliminary and follow-up investigation; differential emphasis placed on investigating specific types of crime; the quality and nature of the crimes assigned for investigation; and the training and experience of officers. Changes in clearance rates over time could reflect data variability and/or changes in productivity.

#### **DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED**

Police

#### **BENCHMARK**

The police department has established a benchmark to be within the top one-third of the county with regard to clearance rates for all crime, for

violent crimes, and for property crimes. The police department uses San Diego County data since clearance data can vary greatly from state to state and even somewhat by county within California. We are fairly confident in our local county data due to a shared database that all agencies use and regular quality assurance audits that are conducted.

## RESULTS

	<b>BENCHMARK</b>	<b>CARLSBAD 2005</b>
OVERALL CRIME	Top one-third	Yes
VIOLENT CRIME	Top one-third	No
PROPERTY CRIME	Top one-third	Yes

Note: Individual city data is not yet available for 2006.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>2005 Overall Crime Clearance Rates</b>
1	<b>Carlsbad</b>	<b>24%</b>
2	El Cajon	22%
3	San Marcos	22%
4	La Mesa	19%
5	Poway	19%
6	Escondido	18%
7	Lemon Grove	18%
8	Santee	18%
9	National City	17%
10	Coronado	16%
11	Oceanside	16%
12	Vista	16%
13	San Diego	15%
14	Chula Vista	14%
15	Encinitas	14%
16	Sheriff's Unincorporated	13%
17	Imperial Beach	11%
18	Solana Beach	9%
19	Del Mar	3%

	<b>2005 Violent Crime Clearance Rates</b>		<b>2005 Property Crime Clearance Rates</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1	Coronado	77%	<b>Carlsbad</b>	<b>21%</b>
2	El Cajon	54%	San Marcos	20%
3	Poway	54%	El Cajon	18%
4	La Mesa	53%	Escondido	15%
5	San Diego	52%	La Mesa	15%
6	Santee	50%	National City	15%
7	<b>Carlsbad</b>	<b>49%</b>	Poway	15%
8	Encinitas	49%	Lemon Grove	14%
9	Unincorporated	45%	Santee	14%
10	Escondido	43%	Coronado	13%
11	Imperial Beach	42%	Oceanside	13%
12	Vista	39%	Chula Vista	12%
13	Lemon Grove	37%	Vista	12%
14	San Marcos	36%	San Diego	10%
15	Oceanside	35%	Encinitas	9%
16	Chula Vista	34%	Unincorporated	8%
17	Solana Beach	33%	Solana Beach	7%
18	Del Mar	30%	Imperial Beach	6%
19	National City	29%	Del Mar	2%

### ***CARLSBAD'S CLEARANCE RATES: 1996 – 2005***

	<b><u>1996</u></b>	<b><u>1997</u></b>	<b><u>1998</u></b>	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Overall	21%	30%	24%	23%	23%	23%	19%	21%	31%	24%
Violent	48%	52%	48%	45%	56%	60%	47%	51%	69%	49%
Property	18%	27%	22%	21%	19%	20%	16%	17%	26%	21%

### **ANALYSIS**

Carlsbad's 2005 overall clearance rate (24%) was the second highest Carlsbad has achieved in the last 10 years. Although there has been much fluctuation in overall clearance rates over the years, Carlsbad has shown an

increase in four of the last five years. In contrast, the county average overall clearance rate has decreased in the past five years to an average rate in 2005 of 16%, two thirds of Carlsbad's rate of 24%.

Carlsbad's 2005 violent crime clearance rate (49%) reflects a decrease compared to the previous two years. Carlsbad falls one place below the top one-third of San Diego cities, just missing its benchmark for 2005. However, Carlsbad still exceeds the county average violent crime clearance rate of 46%. Carlsbad's violent crime clearance rate has been higher than the county in four of the last five years. This is especially significant given the downward trend in the county's average rate over the past five years to 46% in 2005.

With regard to the property crime clearance rate, Carlsbad has had several other years with clearance rates equally good to those achieved in 2005 (21%), however, it has fluctuated greatly with no steady trend or predictability. 2005 had the fourth highest rate of the last ten years. At 21%, Carlsbad continues to far exceed the county average of 11%.

## **ACTION PLAN**

- Continue to fingerprint all misdemeanor arrest suspects and ensure that the policy is consistently practiced by all patrol shifts.
- Continue quality control follow up including spot checks and feedback from Investigations.
- Continue ongoing audits in investigations to track the accuracy of clearance data, and identify potential problems before they adversely affect clearance rates.
- Continue to conduct quarterly Investigative supervisor's review of detectives' open cases.

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